GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:858
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2000
BOFORS SHELLS FOUND ABANDONED
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;KAMAL NATH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consignment of 155 mm Bofors shells were found strewn near a roadside dhaba at Dhaneli in Raipur;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the follow-up action taken against the persons found responsible for such a serious lapse?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OFLOKSABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 858 FC 23.11.2000

1. Ordnance Factories despatch the consignments of empty shells to the filling factories at regular intervals through road transport by entering into transport contracts. A consignment of empty shells without any explosive and incapable of causing any hazard was despatched from Kanpur through transport contractor after obtaining the necessary security deposit. The driver abandoned the consignment in the custody of the person accompanying the truck and went away unauthorisedly.

2. On learning about the abandonment of the consignment, the factory representative alongwith the transport contractor reached the site and transported the consignment through another truck. Action has been taken against the contractor by black-listing him.

3. Instructions have also been issued to all the factories that immediately on despatch of the consignment, the receiving factory should immediately be informed of the details and ask them to confirm safe receipt of the consignment at the earliest possible. By this method, a link is created to cross-check the receipt of every consignment with least possible delay and also to keep track of each consignment.